Statement

The State-wise position of cane price payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 2003-04 *season*

(Figures in crore Rs.)

State/Zone	Total price payable for cane purchased during 2003-04	Total cane price paid	Balance cane price payable	Status as on
Punjab	404.49	328.93	75.56	30.4.2004
Haryana	556.10	479.61	76.49	30.4.2004
Rajasthan	10.98	5.51	5.47	30.4.2004
U.P.	4079.46	3840.02	239.44	30.6.2004
Uttaranchal	350.24	323.73	26.51	15.6.2004
M.P.	73.26	66.73	6.53	30.4.2004
Gujarat	769.81	736.99	32.82	31.5.2004
Maharashtra	2311.20	1152.18	1159.02	30.4.2004
Bihar	161.44	65.38	96.04	30.4.2004
Assam				N.A.
A.P.	763.88	699.18	64.70	31.5.2004
Karnataka	758.58	630.78	127.80	30.4.2004
Tamil Nadu	639.34	593.52	45.82	15.5.2004
Kerala				N.A.
Orissa	24.38	20.09	4.28	30.4.2004
West Bengal	17.13	10.32	6.81	N.A.
Pondicherry	6.77	6.77	0	30.4.2004
Goa				30.4.2004

Promoting sugar industries

†108. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to promote sugar industry;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have after meeting the representatives of the sugar industry taken appropriate decisions on their suggestions for promoting the sugar industry which *inter-alia* include expediting settlement of subsidy claim, softening of terms of financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund and taking up industry related matters with other concerned Ministries etc.

Buffer stock of sugar

†109. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided on the 18th May, 2004 not to keep the buffer stock of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the middle of June, 2004, Government have taken another decision to keep two million tonnes of buffer stock of sugar;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons for a sudden change in the need for keeping the buffer stock of sugar now; and

(e) the amount to be paid by Government to sugar mills for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) On 19.12.2003 Government decided to extent the period of maintenance of buffer stock of sugar by one year from 18.12.2003. Subsequently Government decided on 12.5.2004 to terminate the extended period *w.e.f.* 18.5.2004. However, on representations from the apex bodies of the sugar industry in this regard, Government reviewed the matter and decided on 27.5.2004 to withdraw the order regarding termination of buffer stock. It is estimated that the holding of buffer stock for one year *w.e.f.* 18.12.2003 would involve an expenditure of Rs. 403 crores.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.